



# New Haven Democracy Fund

"To ensure that all the citizens of New Haven have a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the election of mayor."  
New Haven Code of General Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI, §2-821 • Established in 2007 • [democracyfund@newhavenct.net](mailto:democracyfund@newhavenct.net)



## DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:15 PM, Wednesday, March 28, 2018

New Haven City Hall – 165 Church Street

Second Floor, Mayor's Meeting Room #2

New Haven Democracy Fund Board:

Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

William Wynn

Jack Paulishen

James O'Connell

(Three Seats Vacant)

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

## AGENDA:

1. Call to Order & Attendance. Meeting called to order at 6:20pm.

2. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings (January 17). O'Connell moved to accept the minutes, Paulishen seconded. Unanimously approved.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

The Board discussed investment options. O'Connell motioned to put \$150,000 in a higher interest one year CD and \$50,000 in a shorter term CD, with the option to roll over the CDs should they be stable. Contingent on Finance Department action before June 30. Unanimously approve.

### 4. Administrator's Report

A) CPI/Inflation-based adjustments to NHDF qualifying amounts (see end of minutes for approved changes).

O'Connell moved accept the recommendation to increase the Grant amount to \$20,000 and the maximum contribution to \$390.

B) Legislative Update - no legislation at the state level will directly impact the Democracy Fund, though there are legislative items related to voting rights and the Citizen's Election Program.

### 5. Report from the Chair

Drew Alder from the The Greater New Haven Community Foundation will be invited to the next meeting to present on what their donation and investment opportunities would be.

6. Public Comment - Aaron Goode inquired if all members had completed their ethics disclosure form. All board members have seen or completed and returned the form. The forms are due by April 6, 2018.

## 7. New Business

Members expressed interest in working to put together a voter registration event in September.

The following was unanimously approved by the NHDF Board.

Sec 2 – 831 of the New Haven Democracy Fund Ordinance (ordinance) charges the Democracy Fund Board (The Board) with examining and adjusting amounts of the qualifying donation limits, grant, and matching funds to be consistent with inflation before every other election cycle. The last time this was done was in March 2015 ahead of the 2015 cycle. The Board will again examine the amounts for matching funds, qualified contributions, and grant amounts based on the inflation rate between March 2015 and March 2018. These adjustments would impact the 2019 cycle.

### Current Amounts:

Grant: \$19,000

Minimum Contribution: \$10

Maximum contribution: \$370

Maximum matching donation: \$30

### Adjusted Amounts (Approved March 2018)

Grant: \$20,000

Minimum Contribution: \$10

Maximum contribution: \$390

Maximum matching donation: \$30

Pursuant to the Democracy Fund Ordinance, Grant amounts will be rounded to the nearest thousand (\$1,000), all other amounts will be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$5.00.

All CPI Inflation numbers are based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation schedule found here:

[https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUUR0000SA0L1E?output\\_view=pct\\_12mths](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CUUR0000SA0L1E?output_view=pct_12mths)